

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel originally-filed claims 1-8, without prejudice. New claims 14-19 have been added herein above.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting, ~~characterized in that the~~ comprising applying a pressing force P of the at least one mold wall ~~faces face~~ against the a casting is more than about 1.0 and less than about 2.5 t/m.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting, characterized in that~~ The method of claim 1 wherein the pressing force P of the at least one mold wall ~~faces face~~ against the casting is more than about 1.1 and ~~not more~~ less than about 1.6 t/m.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting, ~~characterized in that: a~~ through a continuous caster wherein mold walls move synchronously with the casting wherein the continuous caster ~~used~~ is a twin-drum type continuous caster, and wherein the drum radius R (m) and the pressing force P (t/m) of the at least one mold wall ~~faces face~~ satisfy satisfies the relation $0.5 \leq (\sqrt{R}) \times P \leq 2.0$.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for producing an austenitic stainless steel thin strip casting, characterized in that: continuous caster used is a twin drum type continuous caster; and~~ The

method of claim 3 wherein the drum radius R (m) and the pressing force P (t/m) of at least one mold wall ~~faces~~ face ~~satisfy~~ satisfies the relation $0.8 \leq (\sqrt{R}) \times P \leq 1.2$.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein a height of a molten steel pool formed between at least two mold walls is more than about 200 mm and less than about 450 mm.

10. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein a solidification time, defined by a span of time between a time when at least one moving mold wall contacts molten steel to a time when at least two solidified shells unite, is more than about 0.4 second and less than about 1.0 second.

11. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein in-line rolling is applied during the process from molding to coiling.

12. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein a degree of Ni inverse segregation, defined by the ratio of an amount of Ni at Ni inverse segregation portions to an average amount of Ni in an entire steel is in the range from about 0.90 to about 0.97.

13. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein a height of a molten steel pool formed between at least two mold walls is more than about 200 mm and less than about 450 mm.

14. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein a solidification time, defined by a span of time between a time when at least one moving mold wall contacts molten steel to a time when at least two solidified shells unite, is more than about 0.4 second and less than about 1.0 second.

15. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein in-line rolling is applied during the process from molding to coiling.

16. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein a degree of Ni inverse segregation, defined by the ratio of an amount of Ni at Ni inverse segregation portions to an average amount of Ni in an entire steel is in the range from about 0.90 to about 0.97.